



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Grade 3 Teachers

**FROM:** Dr. Michele Walker, Director  
Office of Student Assessment

**SUBJECT:** New Grade 3 Reading Assessment

**DATE:** January 14, 2011

As you may know, Public Law 109 requires the evaluation of reading skills for students who are in grade three beginning in the Spring of 2012. This legislation was created to ensure that all students can read proficiently before moving on to grade four.

### ***Introducing IREAD***

Last fall, educators from across the state worked with the Indiana Department of Education to develop a test blueprint and to review items that have now become the **Indiana Reading Evaluation And Determination (IREAD)** Assessment. Based on the Indiana Academic Standards, IREAD-3 (designated for grade three students) is a summative assessment that measures foundational reading standards through grade three.

### ***Implementing IREAD-3***

The pilot form of IREAD-3 will be administered to a representative sample of students across the state of Indiana during the **March 14-16, 2011 test window**, and we are working to include at least one school per corporation in the pilot sample. The operational form of IREAD-3 will be administered to all grade three students in the Spring of 2012.

### ***IREAD-3 Test Specifics***

IREAD-3 is comprised of three test sessions, all of which are administered in one day. The number of items per test session and the approximate time of each session are indicated below:

Session	Number of Items	Instruction Time*	Working Time*	Total Time*
1	13	5 min	15 min	20 min
2	14	3 min	25 min	28 min
3	13	2 min	22 min	24 min
<b>Totals</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>10 min</b>	<b>62 min</b>	<b>72 min</b>

\*Times are approximate

### ***Guidance Documents***

IDOE staff are busy preparing several guidance documents that will assist you in understanding IREAD-3. An item sampler and the test blueprint will be released by early February and can be accessed by visiting <http://www.doe.in.gov/assessment/>. Check out the *Common Questions* document included with this memo.

### Sample Items

Sample items from all three standards will be displayed on the web.

- Standards 2 and 3 comprise two-thirds of the test. These standards measure Reading Comprehension, and the items look very much like Reading Comprehension items on ISTEP+.
- The type of items that measure Standard 1 on IREAD-3 are unique. In other words, these items do not look like ISTEP+. See below for a “sneak peek” at two of the Standard 1 sample items:

#### Word Analysis: Beginning Sounds

**Look at the words for Number 1. Find the word that has the same beginning sounds as “grass...grass”. Fill in the circle that goes with the answer you choose.**

- ☐ goat                      ☐ grey                      ☐ guest

#### Context Clues

**For Numbers 5 and 6, read the story. For each of the blanks, there is a list of words with the same number. Choose the word from each list that best completes the meaning of the story.**

Close the front \_\_\_(5)\_\_\_ so the warm air stays inside the house.

You may want to put on an extra \_\_\_(6)\_\_\_ if you are still cold.

- 5.) ☐ box  
☐ case  
☐ door  
☐ lid

- 6.) ☐ cane  
☐ ring  
☐ shoe  
☐ sweater

### Communication

Information regarding IREAD-3 will be shared with a variety of educators in several ways—through the Learning Connection, on web pages (*Read On, Indiana!*; Assessment), and via Superintendent’s Mail, to name a few. We have created an email address that you can use to contact us with questions: [IREAD@doe.in.gov](mailto:IREAD@doe.in.gov).

**Please Note:** Teachers and administrators in schools selected for the pilot will receive detailed information in early February.

### Support for Teachers & Students

IREAD is part of an **assessment system**. To help schools monitor student progress and provide appropriate instruction prior to grade three, we are creating additional assessments: IREAD-K, IREAD-1, and IREAD-2 for grades K, 1, and 2. These “no-stakes” assessments will provide teachers with the feedback necessary to track student progress and to make instructional decisions that will ensure student success on IREAD-3.

We provide diagnostic assessment tools for schools, too. mCLASS: Reading 3D (grades K-2) and Acuity (grade 3) are designed to assist teachers in making instructional decisions that improve student learning. We hope you will make these tools (or others that you find helpful) a part of your classroom practice.

cc: Superintendents and Principals